This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus comprising:

image development means for generating first image data and first discrimination data, the first discrimination data representing attributes of each pixel of the first image data, on the basis of information described in a page description language;

discrimination data generating means for generating second discrimination data different from the first discrimination data, using the first image data and the first discrimination data generated by the image development means;

image data generating means for generating second image data by correcting the first image data generated by the image development means on the basis of the second discrimination data generated by the discrimination data generating means;

image processing means for subjecting the second image data generated by the image data generating means to a predetermined process on the basis of the second discrimination data generated by the discrimination data generating means; and

image output means for outputting image data processed by the image processing means,

wherein the image data generating means has a background density averaging section and a character density averaging section, where the first image data is color image data comprising plural color components and where at least one color component is associated with a character or a line figure, the image data generating means generates second image data by replacing the first image data other than said at least one color component with data outputted from the background density averaging section, and by replacing the first image data of said at least one color component with data outputted from the character density averaging section.

2. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image development means generates first discrimination data that discriminates whether each pixel is associated with a character, or a line figure described by a straight line and a curve.

3. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the discrimination data generating means generates second discrimination data that does not discriminate whether each pixel is associated with a character, or a line figure described by a straight line and a curve, using the first image data generated by the image development means.

4. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image development means generates first discrimination data that does not discriminate whether each pixel is associated with a line figure described by a straight line and a curve, or a plane figure, the entirety or each component of which is painted out with uniform density.

5. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the discrimination data generating means generates second discrimination data that discriminates whether each pixel is associated with a line figure described by a straight line and a curve, or a plane figure, the entirety or each component of which is painted out with uniform density, using the first image data generated by the image development means.

6. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image development means generates first discrimination data that does not discriminate between a contour portion and an inside portion of a plane figure painted out with uniform density.

7. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the discrimination data generating means generates second discrimination data that discriminates

between a contour portion and an inside portion of a plane figure painted out with uniform density, using the first image data generated by the image development means.

8. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image development means generates first discrimination data that discriminates between a plane figure painted out with uniform density and a tone image.

9. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the discrimination data generating means generates second discrimination data that does not discriminate between a plane figure painted out with uniform density and a tone image, using the first image data generated by the image development means.

10. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image development means generates first discrimination data that discriminates that each pixel is associated with a tone image.

11. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the discrimination data generating means generates second discrimination data that discriminates the magnitude of density variation in each pixel, using the first image data generated by the image development means.

12. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the discrimination data generating means generates, when the first image data generated by the image development means is color image data comprising plural color components, second discrimination data which represents attributes of each pixel for each color component and is different from the first discrimination data, using the color image data.

13-20. (Canceled).

21. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a controller unit which generates first image data and first discrimination data, the first discrimination data representing attributes of each pixel of the first image data, on the basis of information described in a page description language;

a discrimination data generating unit which generates second discrimination data different from the first discrimination data, using the first image data and the first discrimination data generated by the controller unit;

an image data generating unit which generates second image data by correcting the first image data generated by the controller unit on the basis of the second discrimination data generated by the discrimination data generating unit;

an image processing unit which subjects the second image data generated by the image data generating unit to a predetermined process on the basis of the second discrimination data generated by the discrimination data generating unit; and

an image output unit which outputs image data processed by the image processing unit,

wherein the image data generating unit has a background density averaging section and a character density averaging section, where the first image data is color image data comprising plural color components and where at least one color component is associated with a character or a line figure, the image data generating unit generates second image data by replacing the first image data other than said at least one color component with data outputted from the background density averaging section, and by replacing the first image data of said at least one color component with data outputted from the character density averaging section.

22. (Previously Presented) An image processing method comprising:

generating first image data and first discrimination data, the first discrimination data representing attributes of each pixel of the first image data, on the basis of information described in a page description language;

generating second discrimination data different from the first discrimination data, using the first image data and the first discrimination data;

generating second image data by correcting the first image data on the basis of the second discrimination data;

subjecting the second image data to a predetermined process on the basis of the second discrimination data to produce processed image data; and

outputting the processed image data,

wherein the first image data is color image data comprising plural color components and where at least one color component is associated with a character or a line figure, the generating second image data comprises:

generating average background density data of the first image data;

generating average character density data of the first image data; and

generating the second image data by replacing the first image data other than said at least one color component with the average background density data, and by replacing the first image data of said at least one color component with the average character density data.